(a) how many schools and colleges have taken the VSAT-Bibliographic Data Base Project under the MPLADS:

(b) what are the difficulties faced for this project and what are the difficulties faced by MPs in giving these projects; and

(c) what steps are being taken to make the procedure easy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) As per the information received from the Department of Electronics, and the information available in the Department of Programme Implementation, four institutions viz. One University, One College and two Schools have taken up the VSAT-Bibliographic Data Base Projects under the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme.

(b) No references indicating serious difficulties in implementing this project have been received so far. Certain clarification which had been sought about the guidelines and procedures have been given.

(c) In the Department of Electronics' Brochure on "Guidelines on Implementation of Electronics Projects" every effort has been made to provide as much information as possible so as to facilitate expeditious implementation of these projects. It has also been mentioned that the DoE would provide the necessary technical assistance and guidance for coordination purpose.

Request of Kashmiri Pandits to UNHRC for a safe haven

1268. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be please to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Kashmiri Pandit leaders had approached the United Nations Human Rights Commission Sub-Committee on protection of Minorities in Geneva for their recognition as a bonafide minority in Jammu and Kashmir and had called for a safe haven for them within the Kashmir Valley, as reported in the Hindustan Times dated the 8th May, 1996; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMANIAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. A Kashmir Pandit NGO based in London took part as observer in the Working Group of Minorities of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities under the Commission for Human Rights, from April 29, 1996 to May 3, 1996. It demanded a 'safe haven' for Pandits in the Kashmir valley and criticised the National Commission for Minorities in India for not recognising the Kashmiri Pandits as a minority. No reference has, however, been received from the Working Group on the demand made by the above mentioned NGO, nor was there any discussion on the subject during the Sub-Commission Session. In fact, the Kashmir Pandit migrants, under the aegis of different groups, have also been raising the question of carving out security zones to facilitate their return to the valley. Consideration of this demand has to, inter alia, include the issue as to whether such security zone will guarantee the safety of individuals who may have to step out of the zone to other parts of the valley on normal business and economic activities. There is no proposal under consideration regarding recognition of Kashmir Pandits as minority in J&K.

World Bank-funded power projects in Orissa

1269. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to implement any World Bank funded power project in Orissa;

(b) if so, what are those projects and the funds approved therefor; and

(c) by when those projects are expected to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTERY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) to (c) A loan of US $ 350 million has been negotiated with the World Bank for the Orissa Power Sector Restructuring Project. This project includes assisting the newly set-up Corporate entities viz., the Orissa

Hydro Power Corporation (OHPC) and the Grid Corporation of Orissa (GRIDCO) in undertaking their institutional development. The project seeks to extend assistance to GRIDCO in its programme for Transmission and Distribution related activities. The project also covers facilitating the operationalisation of the Orissa Regulatory Reforms Commission and undertaking of a variety of demand side measures. The loan, upon becoming effective, would aim at project-implementation in the period of about 5 years.

Central Assistance for Generating Rural Employment

1270. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA:
SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI:

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Central assistance given to different States and Union Territories for projects relating to rural employment generation during 1995-96; and

(b) the criteria for granting the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHADRADEO PRASAD VARMA): (a) Statement showing the Central releases to the States/UTs under wage employment schemes i.e. Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY), Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), Million Wells Scheme (MWS), Intensified JRY and Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) during the year 1995-96 is annexed . [*See* Appendix 178, Annexure No. 33]

(b) The criteria for granting for Central assistance is as under:-

Under JRY (Including IAY & MWS) Central assistance is given to the States/UTs on the basis of proportion of rural poor in a State/UT to the total rural poor in the country. The poverty estimates prepared by the Planning Commission based on 43rd Round National Sample Survey Organisation's Survey are used.

Resources under the second stream of JRY (IJRY) were distributed among the 120 backward districts on the basis of backwardness index formulated by assigning equal weightage to the proportion of rural SC/ST population in a district to total SC/ST population of all selected backward districts and inverse of per capita production of agricultural workers.

Under EAS Central Assistance is given on the basis of categorisation of blocks. Taking rural population of block divided by total rural population of blocks covered under the scheme and multiplied by ten thousand, a weight was given to each block. Accordingly, block with the weightage of 7.5 or more (i.e. population more than 196287) was considered as 'A' category, block with less than 7.5 and more than 2.5 (i.e. population between 196287 to 65585) was considered as 'B' category and block with the weightage of less than 2.5 (i.e. population less than 65585) was considered as 'C' category block. In case of such block for which date was not available, the same has also been considered as 'C' category block.

On the basis of categorisation 'A' category block was given Rs. 80.00 lakhs, 'B' category block was given Rs. 60.00 lakhs and 'C' category block was given Rs. 40.00 lakhs for the year 1995-96.

Digging of Bore Wells in States

1271. SHRI V. NARAYANAYNASAMY: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of bore wells dug by Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan during the last two years, with the funds allocated by the Centre under the Rural Development Schemes, State-wise;

(b) whether the Centre has taken any steps to set up Groundwater Development Agency, on the pattern of the Central Water Development Agency; and

(c) if not, whether Government propose to consider setting up of such an agency immediately, in view of huge funds being provided to States under the Rural Development Scheme of the Centre?